

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for reducing ~~the~~ oxygen content of seawater ~~constituting~~ ballast water on a ship, ~~(1) where~~ wherein the ballast water is introduced into ~~the~~ an upper part ~~(14)~~ of a downcomer ~~(12)~~, whereby a pressure drop arises, ~~especially~~ in the upper part ~~(14)~~ of the downcomer ~~(12)~~, facilitating ~~the release~~ a separation of ~~gases~~ gas from the ~~seawater~~ ballast water, the separated gas being able to leave the ~~seawater~~ ballast water after flowing through the downcomer ~~(12)~~ together with the ~~ballast water~~ seawater, characterized in that the upper part ~~(14)~~ of the downcomer ~~(12)~~, ~~that~~ is situated well above the ship's ~~(1)~~ deck, and is directly connected to a water supply pipe ~~(10)~~, and ~~where the downcomer's (12)~~ wherein a lower part of the downcomer is communicating with ~~the ship's (1)~~ a ballast compartment ~~(4)~~ of the ship.

2. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upper part ~~(14)~~ of the downcomer ~~(12)~~ communicates with a gas pipe ~~(15)~~, ~~where~~ wherein the gas pipe ~~(15)~~ is arranged to deliver nitrogenous gas to the downcomer ~~(12)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lower part of the downcomer ~~(12)~~ is coupled, ~~preferably~~ generally in the horizontal direction, to ~~the~~ an upper part ~~(18)~~ of a vertical separating pipe ~~(16)~~, wherein the upper part ~~(18)~~ of the vertical separating pipe is coupled to an extraction pipe ~~(20)~~ at a slightly higher level than that of the point of connection of the downcomer ~~(12)~~ to the separating pipe ~~(16)~~.

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4. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein
the connection between the downcomer-(12) and the separating pipe-(16) is tangential.